

Integrating migration into climate adaptation policy frameworks in Africa

Elina Marmer¹, Jürgen Scheffran¹ and Papa Sow²

¹Research Group Climate Change and Security (CLISEC),
University of Hamburg, Germany

²Zentrum für Entwicklungsforschung (ZEF), University of Bonn, Germany

Outline

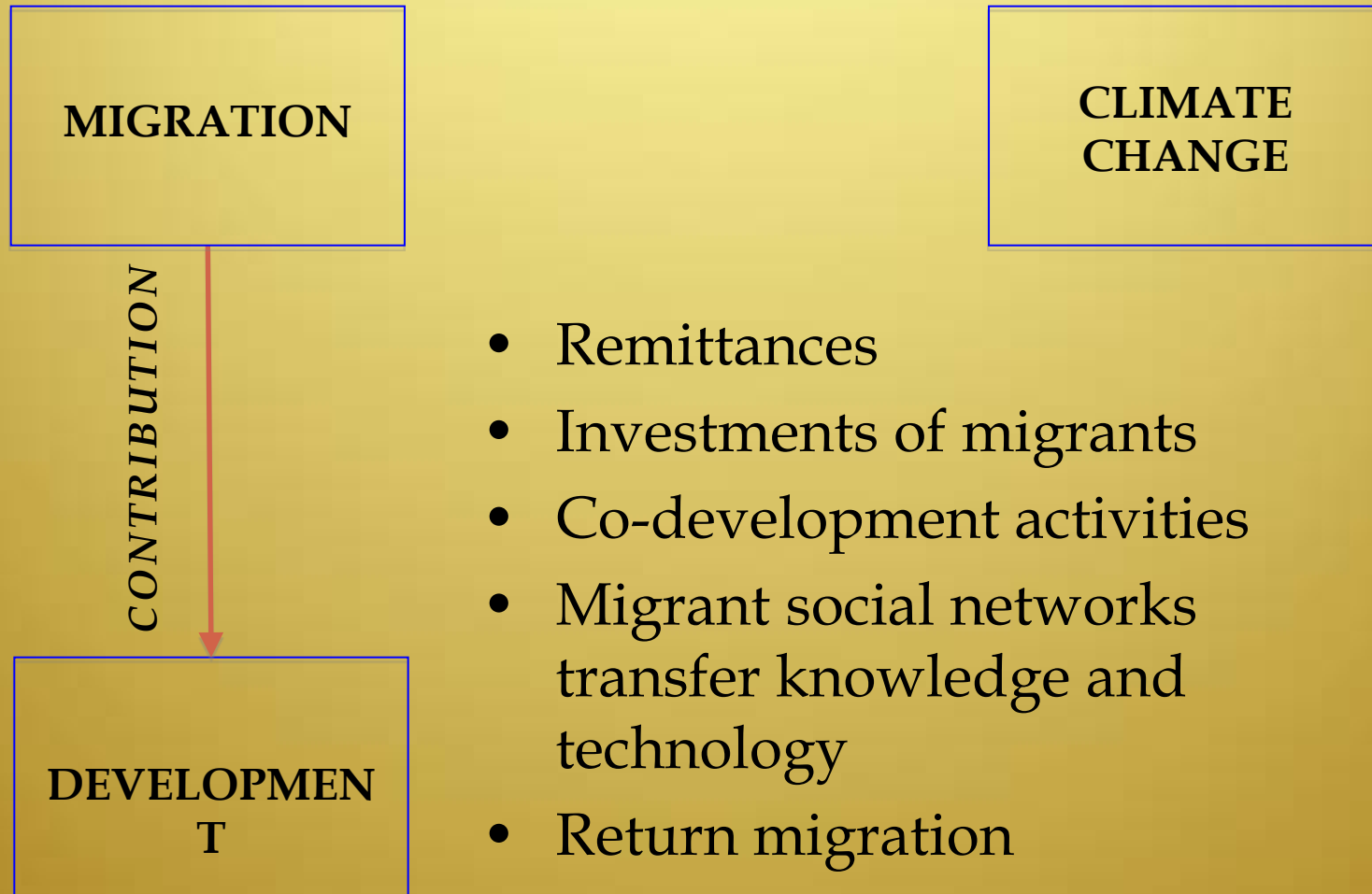
1. The role of migration in climate adaptation
2. Case studies
 - Morocco
 - Senegal
 - Rwanda
3. Conclusions

Migration and adaptation



- Climate change can destroy livelihoods forcing people to migrate
- Migration can increase population pressure and the strain on scarce resources
- Sudden, unexpected and large-scale migration can overwhelm the management capacities of destination communities and provoke conflict

Migration and adaptation



Migration and adaptation

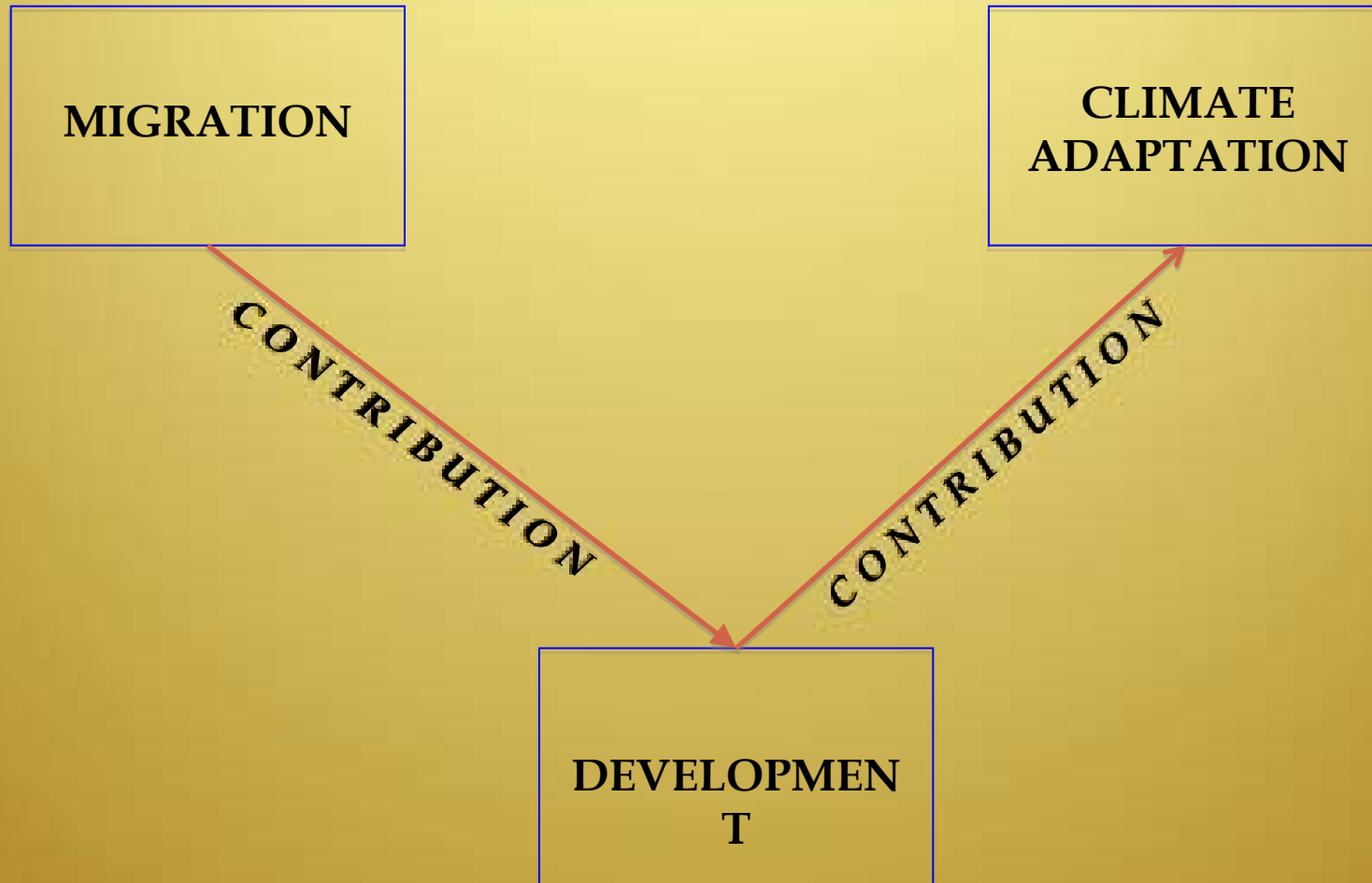
MIGRATION

**CLIMATE
ADAPTATION**

- We understand that the whole world needs to develop new ways to cope with current and anticipated climatic changes
- Climate adaptation can only be achieved by global, local and individual development

**DEVELOPME
T**

Migration and adaptation



Three concepts

1. Adaptation preventing migration
2. Migration as adaptation
3. Migration for adaptation

1. Adaptation preventing forced migration

Assumptions

- Climate change destroys livelihoods forcing people to migrate

Policy response

- Adaptation aims at sustaining the livelihoods of affected populations to reduce their propensity to migrate

2. Migration as adaptation

Assumptions

- Migration is a legitimate adaptive response to climate change
- It reduces population pressure, lessens the strain on scarce resources, facilitates risk reduction and offers new opportunities for survival

Policy response

- The role of institutions and policy is organizing relocation and supporting integration

3. Migration for adaptation

Assumptions

- Migrant networks have access to social, financial and cultural capital in countries of origin and destination
- Migrants contribute to development through transfer of knowledge, remittances and investment in their home communities

Policy response

- Institutional support in both regions needs to be directed towards channeling Diaspora contributions into climate adaptation measures

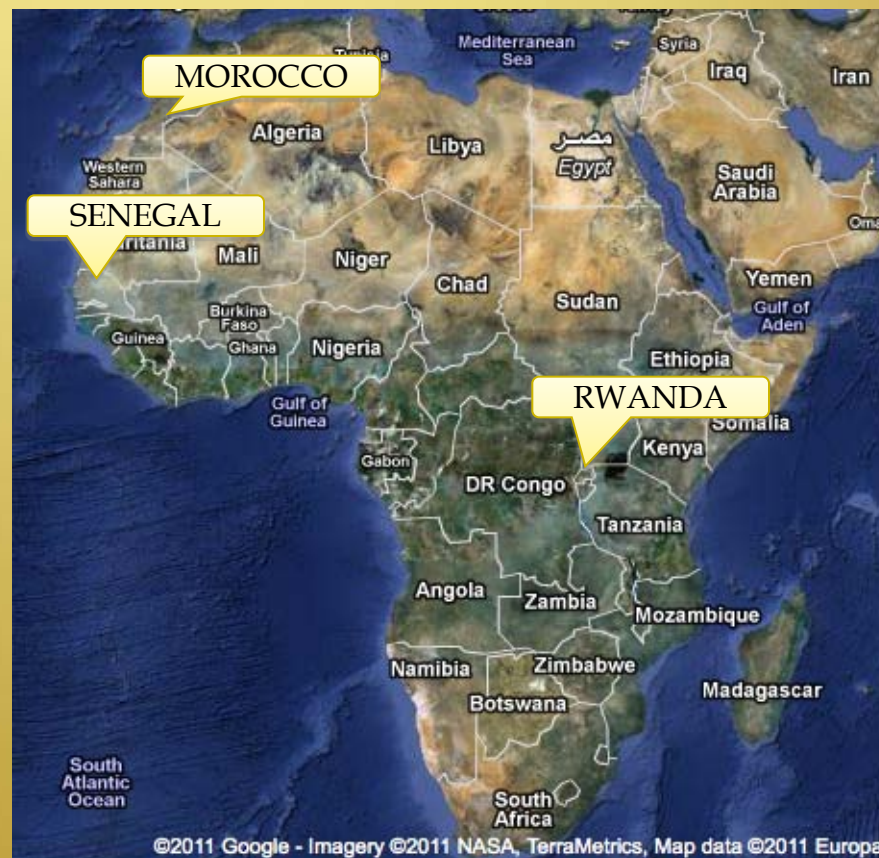
Migration for adaptation

To move beyond the threat-victim discourse of migration we describe communities and migrants as active social agents who shape and create their livelihood under changing environmental conditions

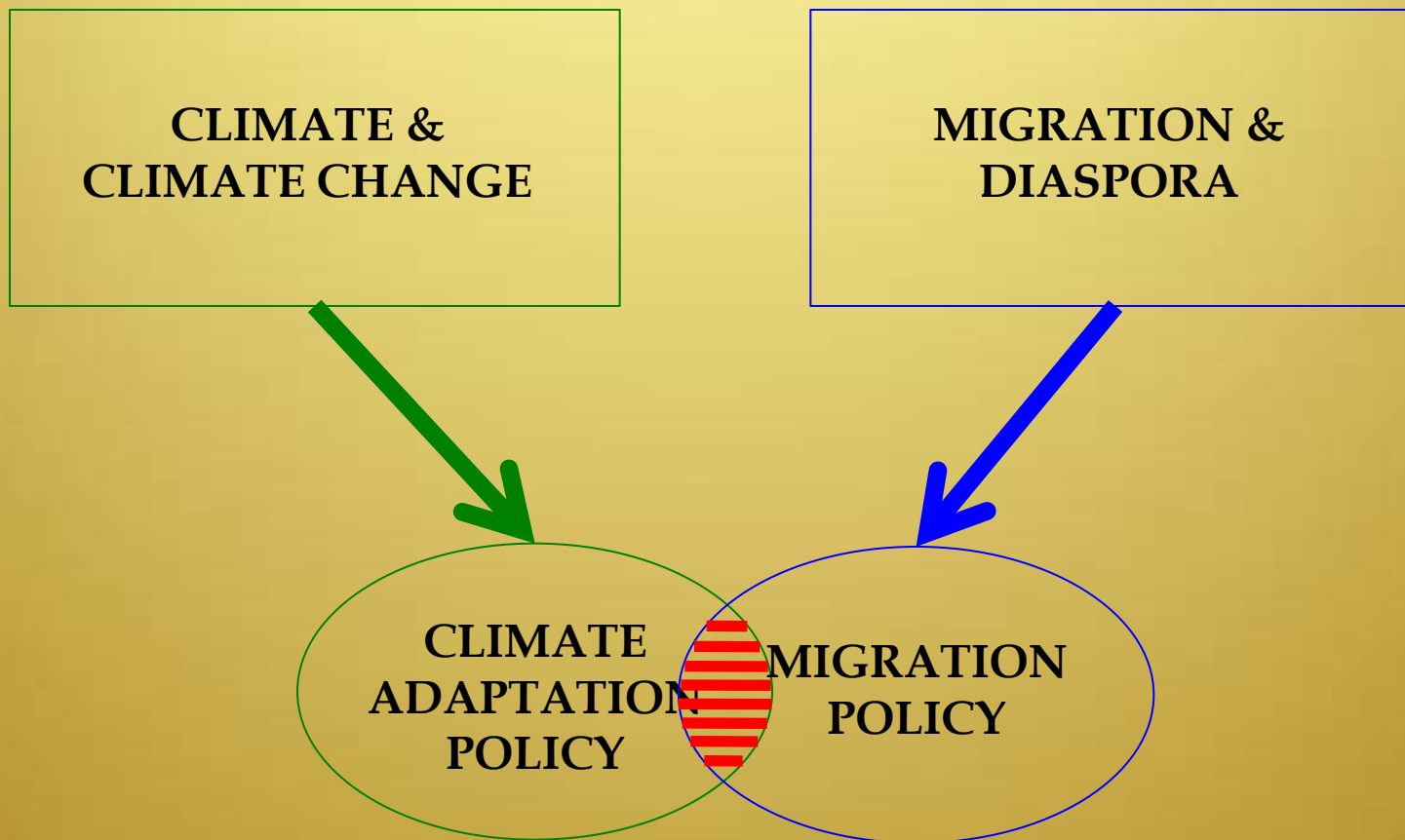
Case studies

Three African countries

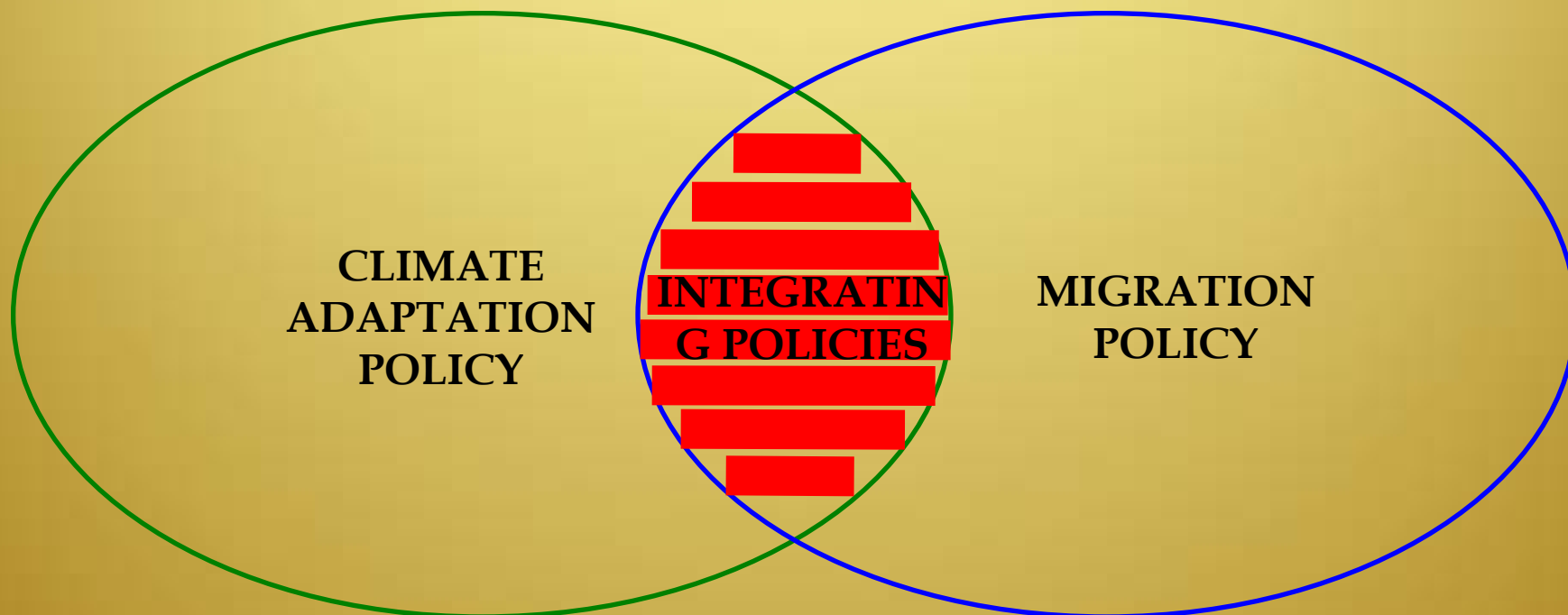
- Different climates
- Different climatic changes
- Different migration histories
- Different policy responses



Case studies



Case studies



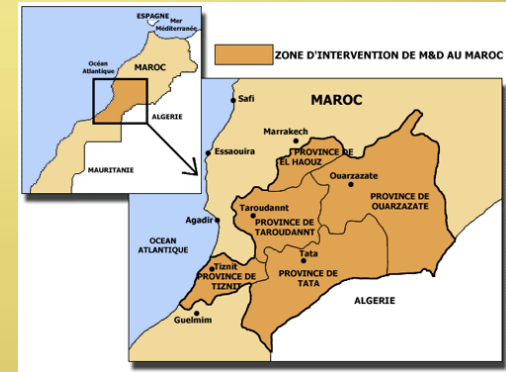
Morocco

- Since 1956, large-scale migration of mainly low skilled workers, mainly to Europe
- Since the 1990s the international emigration has nearly doubled
- In 2007, remittances by international migrants contributed 9% of the national GDP, reducing poverty by 4%
- Agricultural, real estate and business investments by migrants have considerably contributed to development in the regions of origin
- Morocco has early recognized the benefits of migration. Policies supporting and encouraging remittances, investment and co-development since late 1960s

Morocco

Migrations et Développement (M&D)

- Founded in 1986 in France by immigrants from Souss region
- Projects in **420** villages serving over **100,000** people
- Electrification, drinking water and irrigation, education, health and agriculture
- Cooperates with local authorities, governmental institutions in Morocco, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, international funding bodies and the EU
- In 2003 evaluation found most infrastructures and institutions sustained in a good condition after the projects have been finalized



Source: www.migdev.org

Morocco

“PROGRAM AGAINST DROUGHT”

- The region of Souss was severely affected by droughts since the 1970s
- Activities include:
 - Rainwater collection and storage
 - Construction of wadi dams
 - Water resource management
 - **27** networks of drinking water have been constructed in **43** villages with **27,000** inhabitants
 - **2** sewage systems were built and a 3rd is in progress



Source: www.migdev.org

Morocco

- Water resources are already reaching the limits of supply needs
- Co-development activities implemented by Moroccan Diaspora have been supported by the government for decades
- Integrated policy would mean systematically approaching available and mobilizing additional Diaspora resources for adaptation activities to maximize the use of skills, technology and financial contribution migrant networks can offer

Senegal

"Selbsthilfegruppe der Bürger Waoundés in Europa eV"

- Founded in Munich, Germany, in 1994 by the emigrants from Waoundé (10,000 inhabitants), Senegal River valley
- *"Selbsthilfegruppe"* has 90 members
- Cooperates with:
 - NGOs in Germany, Austria and Luxemburg
 - German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
 - Senegalese Ministry of National Education, Technical Education and Vocational Training



Source: www.waounde.de

Senegal

- Since the 1970s, Waoundé was strongly affected by droughts
- Agriculture was no longer sustaining livelihoods
- Residents install irrigation systems, but no institutional support has been offered
- Sharp raise of the emigration rate from 20% of young men to 90%
- "*Selbsthilfegruppe*" implements developmental projects predominantly in education



Source: www.waounde.de

Senegal

- A vocational training centre was established in 2006; today it offers training to **200** students
- Students are trained in wood- and metal working, electricity, tailoring and hair dressing
- Since 2008, the centre participates in a photovoltaic project of the French *Electriciens Sans Frontières*
- Installation and maintenance of solar collectors in schools and dispensaries
- Income diversification, electrification, renewable energies



Source: www.waounde.de

Senegal

- Senegalese Diaspora is strongly organized and contributes to development, predominantly in water and education
- Adaptation policy calls for a greater co-ordination between government institutions to overcome funding limitations
- By integrating migration in adaptation policy framework additional financial and human resources can be offered to communities and the government to adapt to climate change

Rwanda

- In 2010, Rwandan Diaspora Global Network collectively initiated the “*Bye Bye Nyakatsi*” project
- Building a model village of 500 houses for poor families (3,000 people) replacing grass thatched houses (*nyakatsi*) in the Bugesera District
- The houses will be connected to biogas systems, water and electricity
- Health centre, school and commercial areas will be provided



Source: www.ambarwanda.be

Rwanda

- Since the 1990s, the precipitation in this region declined by 70% and led to severe harvest failures due to droughts and proliferation of parasites
- Bugesera was identified as one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change
 - NAPA priority project:

Implementation of clustered villages in rural areas – *Imidugudu* –to increase the adaptive capacity by improved infrastructure (potable water, sanitation, alternative energy) and promotion of non-agricultural jobs.



Source: www.wikipedia.com

Rwanda

- Rwandan Diaspora organizations worldwide have been fundraising for this project in 2010, construction began this year
- District Authorities provided 36 ha land for the construction
- The Diaspora General Directorate coordinates the activities
- Experienced Diaspora members to be involved in the implementation
- 12 houses donated by the American company contracted for the construction



Source: www.afronline.org

Rwanda

- The Diaspora General Directorate cooperates with the IOM and the UNDP to promote knowledge transfer by volunteer programs of highly skilled Rwandan emigrants
- This can be useful in the alternative (renewable) energy and for the development of the early warning systems
- Programs could systematically aim at approaching Diaspora specialists in these fields
- The Diaspora Mutual Fund, a collective investment initiative in treasury and corporate bonds could also be allocated for climate adaptation activities

Summary

- We present constructive approaches how migration, usually seen as a threat in the climate change context, can be integrated into the climate adaptation framework
- Migration is a possible adaptive response to climate change
- Migrant networks can strengthen the social capital, livelihood and resilience of their origin communities
- They can develop innovative approaches for climate adaptation

Conclusions

Co-development activities initiated and run by migrant organizations

- Can be successful if jointly supported by institutional frameworks

- In communities vulnerable to climate change these activities often facilitate climate adaptation

- Institutional support in both regions needs to be directed towards channeling Diaspora contributions into climate adaptation measures

THANK YOU